

Shared Inquiry

Shared Inquiry is a distinctive method of learning in which participants search for answers to fundamental questions raised by a text. This search is inherently active; it involves taking what the author has given us and trying to grasp its full meaning, to interpret or reach an understanding of the text in light of our experience and using sound reasoning.

Shared Inquiry Goals

Self-Reliance as thinkers, readers, and writers.

Shared Inquiry Questions

Factual questions - have only one correct answer.

Evaluative questions - ask us to decide whether we agree with the author's point of view. The answer to an evaluative question depends on our knowledge, experience, and values, as well as our own interpretation of the work.

Interpretive questions - have more than one correct answer that can be supported with evidence from the text.

What makes a good interpretive question?

You should have **genuine doubt** about the answer(s) to the question.

You should **care** about the question.

Your question should be **discussible**.

Your question should be **clear**.

Your question should be **specific** to the selection.

Rules for Inquiry Discussions:

- Come prepared
- Participate in the discussion
- Listen to each other's point of view
- Give others a chance to participate
- Avoid put downs
- Disagree with the idea, not the person
- Take turns speaking
- Stay focused on the question
- THINK before you speak